



Dragon Soldiers Welcome New Leader

By Mr. Christian Deluca

The U.S. Army Chemical School (USACMLS) Regimental Review on 29 June 2006 marked the end of a week honoring the work of Dragon Soldiers and the beginning of new leadership. Brigadier General Stanley Lillie, Commandant of the USACMLS and Chief of Chemical, passed command to Colonel Thomas Spoehr, making Colonel Spoehr the 24th officer to lead the Corps.

Serving as commandant since 2003, Lillie oversaw the training of more than 14,000 Chemical Soldiers in a regiment of 21,000 Soldiers. “He set the bar for the Regiment and the Army to achieve (an) incumbent state,” said Major General Randal Castro, Commanding General of the Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Major General Castro also expressed that there were concerns about replacing Brigadier General Lillie. Would the replacement be able to take on the weight of such a demanding position? Would

he continue to look to the future as Brigadier General Lillie had? But the answers to these questions were positive. “We are delighted; we are lucky at Fort Leonard Wood to have the Spoehrs following in the Lillies’ footsteps,” Castro said. “We are thrilled to have them as a part of our team and a part of our family.”

Colonel Spoehr is no stranger to Fort Leonard Wood. He previously commanded the 3d Chemical Brigade and served as the Director of Training from 2001 to 2003. His last assignment was the Director of Material, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, Headquarters, Department of the Army. He has been nominated by the President for promotion to brigadier general.

Colonel Spoehr said that there were three emotions he felt while thinking about his new position: excitement, appreciation, and honor. Part of his excitement stems from his return to the Missouri post. He expressed his appreciation to the Fort Leonard Wood community for



Colonel Thomas Spoehr, USACMLS commandant, addresses the Chemical Regiment.

making his move as painless as possible and to Brigadier General Lillie for the job he has done with the Corps. “The Lillies have made a profound difference to our Corps, and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude.” Colonel Spoehr also expressed that he is honored to be selected to replace Brigadier General Lillie. “Major General Castro, I am honored that you and the Department of the Army have a belief in me, and in return [I] will commit myself to provide the Army and the joint force the full spectrum [needed to achieve] perfection.”

Cynthia and I are extremely excited to return to Fort Leonard Wood to see all the improvements that have been made and to renew old friendships,” Spoehr said.

Colonel Spoehr and his wife Cynthia have two children, Catherine, 20, and Peter, 16. 🍷🍷



Major General Randal Castro hands Colonel Spoehr the Regimental flag.

Mr. Deluca is a photojournalist for the Fort Leonard Wood Guidon newspaper.

